

**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
September 22, 2011, 1:30 p.m.  
Missoula Chamber of Commerce, Missoula, Montana**

**Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present:** Steve Lozar, Jim Murry, Sharon Lincoln, Bob Brown, Lee Rostad, Kent Kleinkopf, Crystal Wong Shors, Shirley Groff, John Lepley, Ed Smith and Jim Court

**MHS Board of Trustee members excused were:** Jim Utterback, Thomas Nygard, Janene Caywood and Steve Carney

**Staff present:** MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg; MHS Administrative Assistant, Renee Podell; MHS Centralized Services Program Administrator, Denise King; MHS Special Projects Manager, Susan Near; MHS Public Relations Manager, Tom Cook; and MHS Museum Curator of Collections, Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney, and Deb Mitchell, MHS Program Specialist in the Outreach & Education Program.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Steve Lozar called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He thanked Janene Caywood and Kent Kleinkopf for their work in securing the Chamber of Commerce meeting room and for the hard work they put forward for the History Conference.

Steve Lozar led the Board in prayer.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES-MOTION**

**Jim Murry moved approval of the July 21, 2011 minutes from the Board of Trustee Meeting. Ed Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**Ed Smith moved approval of the minutes from the Special Board of Trustee Meeting on August 8, 2011. Sharon Lincoln seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Bruce Whittenberg**

Bruce said it was an honor for him to be at MHS (a handout was presented and made a permanent part of the record). Bruce noted that his focus while at MHS will be on internal structure and developing an organizational culture. He stated he has set 90-day priorities. He tries to get around the building every day and also tries to be active in the Society activities. He has reviewed the budget and is looking for efficiency and is also looking for opportunity. Bruce wants to develop strong relationships with the Board members and will be meeting with each one. He highlighted areas within the Society he will be reviewing and evaluating. He will be presenting a revised structure timetable and objectives for the January Board Meeting.

Bruce asked Denise to talk about the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Performance and to share the name of the MHS award winner (a handout was presented and made a permanent part

of the record). Denise gave the names of the four nominees as follows: Roberta Gebhardt, Research Center; Jodie Foley, Research Center; Chris Carson, IT Administrator; and Deb Mitchell, O& I Program. Deb was selected by her peers to receive the Governor's Award. Deb was in attendance and the Board congratulated her.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD REPORT-Bob Brown**

Bob Brown highlighted activities from the July 29<sup>th</sup> and the August 8<sup>th</sup> special meetings which were focused entirely on the selection of the new Executive Director.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT-Steve Lozar**

President Lozar presented his report (a handout was presented and made a permanent part of the record).

#### **FINANCE/LEGISLATIVE REPORTS-Denise King**

The MHS fiscal year ending financial report was presented by Denise (a handout was presented and made a permanent part of the record).

Denise reported that a reception is in the works in the month of November to introduce Bruce to State agencies, the community and other interested folks.

Denise reported on union negotiation issues.

Kent Kleinkopf requested feedback information on the financials of the History Conference when it is concluded. Denise stated she will report on this at the January Board meeting.

#### **MUSEUM PROGRAM-Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney**

##### **Update on the Jay Laber Sculpture**

In January, 2010 the Board approved the purchase of the major sculptural piece by Blackfeet artist Jab Laber titled *Warning Road Hazards Ahead* (a handout was presented and made a permanent part of the record). The piece is currently stored at the Scriver Curatorial Center. Placement of all items on the Capitol Complex grounds must be reviewed and approved by the Capitol Complex Advisory Committee. The CCAC will meet this fall. Sharon Lincoln asked that the findings from the CCAC fall meeting, wherein the Jay Laber Sculpture's placement on the Capitol Complex be announced and that the Board of Trustees have a field trip to view the art sculpture. She asked that this item be added to the January, 2012 meeting agenda.

#### **MOTION-Conrad Mansion to deaccession Conrad related firearms from the Johns Collection**

Jennifer explained that a request was received from the Conrad Mansion Museum in Kalispell to deaccession Conrad related firearms from the Johns Collection (a handout and a copy of the MHS Museum Collections Management Policy, October 15, 2010, was presented and made a permanent part of the record). Museum staff recommend against deaccessioning and breaking

up the Johns Collection thus honoring our commitment to care for the collection in perpetuity for the benefit of the people of Montana and her future generations.

John Lepley requested that the gun collection stay at MHS.

**Jim Court moved to concur with the MHS Museum Staff recommendation to not deaccession the Conrad related firearms from the Johns Collection. Sharon Lincoln seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **RESEARCH PROGRAM-MOTION-Susan Near**

Susan stood in for Brian Shovers who was helping with a tour for the History Conference. She announced that Brian received an award from the Montana Preservation Alliance at their awards ceremony. The Board gave Brian a round of applause.

Susan presented the September, 2011 deaccession list (handout made a permanent part of the record). **Jim Murry moved approval of the September, 2011 deaccession list. Kent Kleinkopf seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **WESTERN RENDEZVOUS OF ART REPORT-Susan Near**

Susan reported that there were more people in attendance at Rendezvous this year which indicates the marketing job was terrific. Art sales were reportedly down, likely due to the slow economy. Susan stated that we didn't have a final number of what the net proceeds from this event were as there are still a number of outstanding bills to be paid.

#### **TOM MULLVANEY POST CARD COLLECTION-Molly Kruckenberg**

A memo was distributed (handout made a permanent part of the record) notifying the Board that the appraiser from Salt Lake City will be traveling to Helena the last week of October, 2011 to perform an appraisal of the collection. A copy of the evaluation and value will be shared with the Board upon completion of the evaluation.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **Discussion on a possible loan request from the Airport Manager**

Kent Kleinkopf reported that he discussed this matter with Jim Utterback and was told that the Airport doesn't have the security or funding to pursue this. Crystal Wong Shors noted that a formal request was not received from the Airport.

##### **Moss Mansion House Museum**

Sharon Lincoln gave kudos to Chris Carson for coming to Billings and designing an absolutely beautiful website for the Moss Mansion House Museum.

##### **Advisory Committee**

Steve Lozar announced that he is meeting with Bruce to discuss the structuring of this committee and the active pursuit of members. He asked that this item be placed on the January Board meeting.

#### Marketing

Lee Rostad gave examples of brochures she has received in the mail from organizations. She commented that she hopes MHS can find money to produce a high quality color brochure telling the story of the Montana Historical Society. Denise stated that the MHS annual report hasn't been done since 2009 which came to about \$8,000.00. The decision was made to save that money and to come up with the capital campaign brochure. Bruce Whittenberg commented that we will be stepping up our marketing game. Lee Rostad suggested a sample flyer to start.

#### Fundraising

We should all be looking for an initial gift that will help fund the capital campaign. The fundraising consultant's report suggested that it will cost 15% of the goal of the campaign to pay the fundraising costs of the campaign. Steve Lozar asked Bruce and staff to bring more information to the next Board meeting on this matter. He also stated that if there is a way to get the information out to the Board members ahead of time he would appreciate it.

Bruce thanked the MHS staff for helping him get oriented very quickly and with a great spirit. He encouraged the Board members to remember MHS in holiday giving with memberships, magazines and the gift shop.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**NEXT MEETING:** 9:30 a.m., January 19, 2012, Montana Historical Society Auditorium.  
The Executive Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Director's Office at MHS.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.